

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

RSC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DOE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 NIC-01 RSR-01

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P R 161156Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9434

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6463

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTIONS TO UNSC RESOLUTION ON AIRCRAFT

DIVERSION

1. OFFICIAL ISRAELI REACTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CON-
DEMNING ISRAEL FOR AUG 10 DIVERSION OF LEBANESE AIRLINER HAS BEEN
DEFENSIVE IN TONE WITH STRESS ON JUSTIFICATION FOR INCIDENT.
MFA SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED IN PRESS AS STATING "IF WE DO NOT SEE
TO THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM, NOBODY WILL. THAT IS THE LESSON
WE LEARN FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION AT WHICH THE RESOLUTION
CENSURING ISRAEL WAS ADOPTED." JERUSALEM POST ATTRIBUTES OFFICIALS
IN JERUSALEM AS STATING THAT SC RESOLUTION LACKED "ANY BALANCE
OF MORAL BASIS SINCE IT DOES NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION
THE BACKGROUND OR CAUSE" OF INCIDENT.

2. INITIAL EDITORIAL REACTION IS ALSO DEFENSIVE IN NATURE.

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MILD SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT EXPRESSED THAT US VOTED FOR RES-

OLUTION ALTHOUGH PRESS NOTES THAT US USED ITS INFLUENCE IN TONING DOWN LANGUAGE.

DAVAR STATES "SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS ON MIDDLE EAST SUBJECTS HAVE ALWAYS LACKED ALL MORAL AUTHORITY BECAUSE OF THE COMPOSITION OF THAT BODY, WHICH DICTATES IN ADVANCE A PRO-ARAB AND ANTI-ISRAELI CONSLUSION ON ANY ISSUE... CENSURE OF ISRAEL BY A BODY WHICH HAS NEVER CONDEMNED ANY ATROCITY OF ARAB TERRORISM ON LAND OR IN THE AIR... CANNOT COMMIT ISRAEL TO ANYTHING. EVEN THE FACT THAT THE US JOINS IN THE CENSURE WILL NOT INVEST IT WITH THE MORAL AUTHORITY IT LACKS." DAVAR GOES ON TO WARN THAT CENSURE WILL NOT CHANGE ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO STRIKE OUT AGAINST ARAB TERRORISM ON EVERY OCCASION AND IN EVERY PLACE. SC CENSURE, DAVAR CONCLUDES, WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE ARAB TERRORISTS TO CONTINUE THEIR ACTS AGAINST ISRAEL AND ENCOURAGE ARAB STATES TO CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT OF TERRORISTS.

3. MAARIV EDITORIAL REGARDS REFERENCE TO RES TO ICAO AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TO ISRAEL AND VIEW UNSC VOTE AS OPENING SHOT IN DIPLOMATIC STRUGGLE. YEDIOT STATES THAT US WAS "UNFAIR" IN VOTING FOR RES AND SHOULD HAVE ABSTAINED SINCE THERE WAS NO MENTION IN RES OF ARAB TERRORIST.

4. AL HAMISHMAR ALSO NOTES THAT WHILE RES DOES NOT CALL FOR SANCTIONS, WARNING CONTAINED IN IT CANNOT BE DISREGARDED BY ISRAEL. EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT ISRAEL'S FRIENDS, AS WELL AS MANY ISRAELIS, HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT DIVERSION OF AIRLINER WHICH SEEMED TO CLASH WITH ISRAEL'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM OF CIVIL AVIATION. SC RES PROVIES THAT ISRAEL'S FIGHT AGAINST ARAB TERRORISM WILL NOT BE FOUGHT BY OTHERS BUT BY THAT VERY FACT, AL HAMISHMAR CONCLUDES, MAKES IT NECESSARY TO CHOOSE MEANS USED IN THIS FIGHT WITH UTMOST CARE. VELIOTES

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